

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, July 22. 1707.

I Have in my last run over a short Account of the Successes of the Confederates last Year against the *French*; let any Man but view the Country, the strong Towers, the Armies, the Stores, Guns, Horses, Arms, and Ammunition they lost; and let them but calmly consider, what Empire in the World ever stood such a Summer.

If my Head serves me right to Collect, being absent from Books and publick Prints, they lost in the whole Consequence of last Summers War,

Two pitch'd Battles fought, in which 50 to 70000 Men of a side entirely were Defeated and Overthrown.

Two great Sieges rais'd, and all the Cannon and Mortars, Ammunition and Provision intirely fallen into their Enemies Hands, 12 Field-pieces at *Barcelona* only excepted; and two of them

they were forc'd to leave on the Road.

In both fights they lost, kill'd, dy'd of their Wounds, taken Prisoners, and afterwards Deserted above 100000 Men, among which was one Marshal of *France*, 25 Generals, and near 2000 other Officers.

At the Siege of *Turin*, was reckon'd 11000 Horses and 8000 Mules; at both Sieges they lost very near 300 pieces of Cannon and Mortars; Arms, Ammunition, Materials for Sieges, and Provisions without Number, or least without Account.

They lost in Dominion almost all *Brabant* and *Flanders*, part of *Artois*, and part of *Hainault*, being the Principal Part of the *Spanish Low Countries*.

In *Italy* they lost all the *Mantuan*, the *Milane*;
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Monese, the *Modenese*, part of the *Parmesan*, *Mirandola*, the *Montferine*, *Alexandrine*, the Valley of *Aoust*, the Marquisate of *Final*, and great part of *Piedmont*; of all which they were possess'd, with all the strong Towns in them at the beginning of the Campaign.

In Spain they lost all *Castalia*, *Valencia*, old *Castile*, *Aragon*, a part of *Murcia*, and part of *New-Castile*.

All these Territories put together, I believe to be much larger in Country than the Isles of *Britain* and *Ireland*, and the United Provinces of the *Dutch* put all together.

In these Conquests I believe I am within compass, if I say they were beaten out of threescore and eighteen fortified Towns and Castles, some of which were of the first Rate, and capable of very great Defence; such as *Menin*, *Ostend*, *Mantua*, *Cremona*, *Valencia*, *Alicant*, *Sarragossa*, *Torrosa*, *Milan*, *Alexandria*, and others forc'd to quit their Conquests in *Piedmont*, and the Towns that cost them so much Treasure and Blood, such as *Vercel*, *Verue*, *Ivrea*, *Nice*, and *Castal*, and are now driven to defend *Susa*, *Pignerol*, and their own Frontiers if they can.

Two Inferences I draw from this large Account, which I hope are useful, and which I think ought to be more thought on than they are.

If the *French* in their full Strength were thus Beaten, thus stript of their ill-gotten Goods, thus beaten out of their Conquests, thus push'd from one Country to another, and reduc'd to such a Condition, as to make all the Offers of Peace, and rumage *Europe* for some Prince or other to undertake to part them and mediate a Peace.

1. Then why so frightned Gentlemen,

with one shock, with the loss of one Battle; why so cast down with the defeat of one Design; what, were you never beaten before? Were you never Baulk'd in an Enterprize before, that you are so amaz'd, and that you would fain fancy there is Reason to Despair?

'Tis not only a faint hearted Principle, but 'tis a Project of a faint hearted Party, and I wish our Eyes were open to it a little; in order to which I shall say a Word in our next to the Case, and enquire into the Reasons, why some People are very willing we should be more discourag'd at this News, than there is any real occasion for.

2. Wonder, Gentlemen, at the Power and Management of the *French* Empire; and pray take me right; wonder at their Power, not so as to be discourag'd at it, but so as to see the necessity of reducing it, and to be thankful it has not long ago reduc'd us, and pull'd down all the Confederate Interest of *Europe*.

3. Wonder at their Management; and this so, as to imitate it, and Defeat them in their own Policy, their indefatigable Industry, their undiscourag'd Diligence, their wonderful Applications in restoring their broken Forces, and putting themselves in such a Posture, as to look their Conquering Enemies in the Face, and that in one Winter, has so strangely made up every Loss, stop't every Breach, and put their Affairs in a posture, to make a bold stand in every Place, and in most Places still to maintain the Superiority of their Power. These are Considerations ought to move us upon many Accounts; of which hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

I Made a short Application in my last of the Scheme of Affairs Abroad, directed to our good Friends, that built their hopes of the Destruction of *Britains* United Constitution upon the present Success of the *French*.

I have hinted again, the impossibility of

the Dissolving the Union; and when I first affirm'd it, I gave a full and clear Explication of my meaning; *Review*, 51, 52. and which I think left no cavilling Enemy room to object; so all the Objections made to it are so weak and trifling, that I think no Answer needful; and therefore I am speaking

Speaking now, not to those who quarrel at the Words, but at the Thing the UNION; who I refer to a Sermon preach'd by the Reverend Mr. *Daniel Williams*, on the first of May, in which he has fully confirm'd what I advanc'd on that Head, as follows.

"The Conditions *De Jure* are Inviolable, and neither Federating Party has Power over the other to abate or alter them. *Thanksg. Sermon p. 8.*

This is evident then, that after the Ratification, even the Parliament of England, which continued for some time, COULD NOT ABATE OR ALTER the Treaty; and indeed it is most plain they could not, for that had been to give the Parliament of England a Power over the Parliament of Scotland, which they never pretended to.

— Again the same Reverend Author.

The Conditions are not alterable by the Parliament of Great Britain, and as his Reasons are not only unanswerable, but particularly happy in being perfectly new, and his own; I cannot but rectify them. As to their possessing the stipulated Benefits, their 61 reserv'd Members are Guaranties to see the Conditions Executed, but no way Authoris'd to alter them, and the English part of the Parliament has no more Power over Scotland than before the UNION, except on Supposition that these Articles are observ'd —

After this in the same Page he goes on. I grant, that saving those Conditions, all that was in Scotland is Subjected to the QUEEN and Parliament of Great Britain, — But none can imagine, that the Queen of Scotland put off that Person, and about 300 Lords and Commons excluded themselves from a share in the Legislature on Stipulated Terms, and yet the English Parliament with 61 Members from Scotland shall alter those Terms, without any Legal Consent of the former, yea, expressly against their Consent, and the most Solemn Precautions.

The Case had greatly differ'd, if the whole Parliament of Scotland had been continued and joyn'd to our English Parliament, if those by themselves or not over Voted by the English had made alterations, the Scots Subjects must Acquiesce, not

withstanding the Word Fundamental and unalterable; for the Legislature had remain'd entire, and in this Contract they had not Covenant'd with their Subjects but for them. —

I Quote this Reverend Author as a Person whose Reason as well as Reputation justifies my Allegation, that not the Parliament of England, or the Parliament of Britain could, or can break the Union of the two Nations.

When thus it is prov'd, that Parliamentary Authority cannot break in upon this Treaty, I think I have enough; for my Argument is against those People that would have the Treaty broke; and flatter themselves it shall be broke, and if once it be Granted you the Parliament can alter the Treaty, all is given up, and I wonder to hear a Protestant talk at that rate.

If they mean a force upon both Nations — I have nothing to say to that; the Sword must decide it, if ever they have a Courage or Power to bring it to such a Trial, which I am in no great fear of; but if they pretend a Legal Breach, I affirm again, no Power on Earth can dissolve the UNION. — The Original Rights of the Collective Body of the People, when all constituted Power is Legally Dissolved, must and does remain; and they may when assembled dissolve the Constitution in being, and erect a new one — But even this collective Body must now Assemble as one, and must agree to divide again into two Kingdoms or more, otherwise it cannot be.

The main of the thing I am upon is to prove, That neither the Parliament that was, could alter it, nor the Parliament that now is can alter this Treaty.

I allow the Parliament is a Magnipotent Power, but I must not allow them Omnipotent; no, nor in every thing relating to civil Government; I mean the Parliament of Britain which now is — Which Parliament has not all the Power which the Parliament of England or Scotland, separately consider'd had before; and the Limitation of their Power consists in this very thing; that they being a Power, form'd and Establish'd by stipulation, of two different Parliaments, as they are subsequent to the Power of those Parliaments, so they are inferior to them: Since every Power which is deriv'd from another

Neither must be inferior to the Power from which it is deriv'd.

The Parliament of *Britain* may do an Act, that may dissolve themselves, and *ipso facto* cause their Power to cease, as in Case of setting up Laws inconsistent with Nature, or Reason, but they cannot dissolve the Treaty; they cannot make an Act of Parliament declaring it void, and declaring the two separate Parliaments of *England* and *Scotland* restor'd—The two separate Nations of *England* and *Scotland*, may indeed upon a recess of Power and violation of the Treaty, assemble in a collective Body as above, and declaring the Constitution broke, mutually reassume their former State—But that it can be done by a Parliamentary Authority I deny, and think I have prov'd.

For this Reason, I quoted before a very much better Authority than mine for an Opinion; that to dissolve this Treaty by Legal Authority, it requires that an Act of the Parliament of *Britain* be pass'd; empowering the Queen to appoint Commissioners to agree for either Nation, that the Union is dissolv'd, and that Her Majesty reassuming the Titles of either Kingdom may summon a Convention of Estates, and these severally ratify a new Treaty of Disunion, and Re-establish the old respective Constitution.

I do not give this as my own, tho' I see nothing to object against it—But upon the whole I humbly recommend it to those Gentlemen, who build their hopes upon the Dissolution of this Union to consider; how impossible it is to have this Knot untied; they may depend upon it, not Parties, nor National Grievances; not Factions, no, not the Parliament can dissolve it; and yet I see nothing of Slavery in this neither; 'tis our Liberty to be thus bound, and I doubt not but it will be our happiness, when Jacobite endeavours, and all that *however blindly do their Work*, are prov'd Abortive and insufficient.

If a certain uneasy Gentleman, who is for weakening every bodys Hands but his own, tho' employ'd in the same Work, thinks this

Directed to him; he is mistaken if he thinks Opposing the Enemies of the Union, and by consequence of *Britains* Liberty, is a Work he is sufficient for, and therefore will have no body meddle with it but himself; if he thinks the Author of this esteems his Railery and Ill Language moving enough to speak to; he is in all these equally mistaken, I am Arguing against a Jacobite Party and Interest, and talking to them, not to him; if he will take up their Cause and plead for them he is wellcome, there is room enough for him, let him go on.

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